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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

St. Albans Rural District Council

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

BY

**RICHARD R. K. PATON,**

M.B., CH.B., GLASGOW, D.P.H., CAMBRIDGE,

Medical Officer of Health, Etc., Etc.,

ALSO

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, HIGH STREET.

1926.





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**Officers of the Council engaged in  
Health Work.**

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Clerk (part time)	...	... Mr. E. F. W. HIEATT.
Surveyor (part time)	...	... Mr. H. F. MENCE.
*Medical Officer of Health	...	Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
*Sanitary Inspector (whole time)	...	Mr. R. S. DAVEY, CERT. R.S., INST. AND M. AND F.
Veterinary Inspector (part time)	...	Mr. H. F. REYNOLDS, M.R.C.V.S.

\* Contribution made to Salary from Exchequer Grants.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
St. Albans Rural District Council.*

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MISS CURTIS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Report for the year 1925, of the Medical Officer of Health for the District over which you preside.

This Report is, as suggested by the Minister of Health, a Survey Report incorporating any changes in the last five years.

**Physical Features and General  
Character of Area.**

The District comprises 7 Parishes, consisting of villages and scattered cottages. The chief occupation is agriculture, but there are several small factories, and some of the inhabitants work in the neighbouring towns.

There are in the area no conditions of occupation or environment prejudicial to the general health.

**General Statistics.**

Area (acres), 37,073.

Population (at census of 1921) 14,535 (6,647 males and 7,888 females).

Number of inhabited houses 3,203.

Number of new houses erected 119 (all by private enterprise).

Number of families or separate occupiers 3,183 (approx.)

Rateable Value £108,976.

Sum represented by a penny rate £454.

The following table gives the provisional Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1925 :—

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales ... ..	18·3	12·2	75
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	18·8	12·12	79
157 Smaller Towns ... .. (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000 to 50,000).	18·3	11·2	74
London ... ..	18·0	11·7	67
<b>St. Albans Rural...</b> ... ..	<b>17·60</b>	<b>8·61</b>	<b>46·6</b>

Table of Vital Statistics for whole District, shewing each Parish separately.

PARISHES.	Area.	Population as given by Registrar General.	Births.			Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1000 nett Births.
			M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals	
Harpenden Rural	3,479	722	3	3	6	...	...	16	3	...	...	1	2	...
Redbourn	4,563	2,183	16	21	37	...	13	13	29	...	...	...	1	...
St. Michael's Rural	6,131	871	3	6	9	...	3	3	6	...	...	1	1	...
St. Peter's Rural	5,256	5,890	30	37	67	...	19	7	26	...	...	...	1	...
Excluding Patients at the two Mental Hospitals.		3,410												
St. Stephen's Rural	6,991	2,191	28	14	42	...	15	7	22	...	1	...	1	...
Sandridge	5,466	944	12	6	18	...	5	1	6	...	2	...	2	...
Wheatthampstead	5,187	3,089	34	22	56	...	15	17	32	...	1	2	3	...
Totals	37,073	15,830	126	109	235	14.84	73	51	124	7.83	6	5	11	46
Excluding Patients at the two Mental Hospitals.		13,350				17.60				9.28				
Rates for year.														
1924	...					13.30				9.36				60
1923	...					18.99				9.57				42
1922	...					21.07				11.06				46
1921	...					21.07				9.58				47

The Populations of the Parishes are approximate only.  
Of the 235 Births, 14 were Illegitimate (10 males and 4 females).



### Mortality Table for Year 1924.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	2
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	12	7	19
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	2	6	8
Heart Disease ... ..	19	9	28
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	1	...	1
Bronchitis ... ..	5	6	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	3	...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3	...	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	...	3
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth ... ..	3	3	6
Suicide ... ..	2	...	2
Other Deaths from Violence... ..	2	4	6
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	9	13	22
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...
All Causes ... ..	73	51	124

### Infant Mortality during the Year 1924.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total				5	1	...	1	7	3	1	...	...	11

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1925.**

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There were 19 cases notified during the year.

The disease occurred in epidemic form at Colney Heath in the Parish of St. Peter, and accounted for 12 of these cases.

### **Diphtheria.**

Seven cases were notified. There were no deaths.

### **Other Notifiable Diseases.**

Five cases of Enteric Fever, with two deaths were notified.

Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox were prevalent throughout the District and affected the school attendances of the children, especially was this the case at Wheathampstead, Sandridge, and Redbourn.

### **Tuberculosis.**

At the beginning of the year there were on the Tuberculosis Register 98 (41 male and 57 female) cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 9 (3 male and 6 female) cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis; at the end of the year the figures were as follows :—

Pulmonary 116 (50 males and 66 females).

Non-Pulmonary 14 (5 males and 9 females).

There were two deaths from Pulmonary and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during this period.

## **Preventive Measures.**

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfecter where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and where necessary, whitewashed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examinations to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 12 reports from them. 10 on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, all of which were negative. Two Sputa were examined for Tubercle Bacilli with positive results.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

## **Vaccination.**

It is for obvious reasons impossible at this date to give any accurate Vaccination returns for the year ending December, 1925.



The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1925, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 208 children born in this District, distributed among the Parishes as shown in the following table :—

9 of these died in infancy without being vaccinated.

8 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

3, though having no Exemption Certificate, are reported as unvaccinated, and

125 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

63 were vaccinated.

Parishes.		Births	Deaths	Gone	Unvaccinated (without Exemption Certificate).	Vaccinated.	Conscientious Objection Certificates.
Harpenden Rural	...	7	...	...	...	4	3
Redbourn	...	43	4	2	1	8	28
St. Michaels Rural	...	12	4	...	...	2	6
St. Peters Rural	...	55	...	4	2	21	28
St. Stephens Rural	..	32	1	...	...	12	19
Sandridge	...	14	...	...	...	4	10
Wheathampstead...	...	45	...	2	...	12	31
Totals	...	208	9	8	3	63	125

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.



## **Hospitals, Nursing arrangements, and other Institutions available for the District.**

### **Infectious Diseases Hospitals.**

*Matron* : Miss Banner, The Sisters' Hospital, St. Albans.

*Medical Superintendent* : Dr. R. R. K. Paton (non-resident).

*a) The Sisters' Hospital*, Union Lane, St. Albans, which consists of :—

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever Block (accommodation 24 beds), over which are 2 Wards of 4 beds each reserved for Cerebro-spinal Fever.
3. Diphtheria Block (accommodation 12 beds).

There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

A Motor Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

*Porter* : Mr. J. W. Bates.

*(b) Cherry Tree Hospital*, near Redbourn, for Smallpox.

Accommodation 16 beds.

At this Hospital there is also an emergency tent.

A Horse Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

*Caretakers* : Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins.

These Hospitals are the property of the St. Albans Town Council and are managed by a Joint Committee of St. Albans Town Council, St. Albans Rural District Council, and Harpenden Urban District Council, and receive patients from these 3 Districts.

The following Institutions supply the other needs of the District :—

St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital and Dispensary.

Watford General Hospital.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital.

Welwyn Cottage Hospital.

St. Albans Union Infirmary.

St. Albans District Nursing Association.

Harpenden Nursing Centre.

St. Albans County Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Watford County Tuberculosis Dispensary.

There is also a District Nurse in each of the following villages :—Bricket Wood, London Colney, Park Street, Redbourn, Sandridge, and Wheathampstead.

(7) **Ambulance.** There is a Red Cross Motor Ambulance in the City, the property of the St. Albans Town Council.

The Ambulance is kept at the Fire Station, St. Albans, and is in charge of the Chief Constable (Mr. J. Harrison); Tel. 18.

It is available for the use of St. Albans and District at a fixed charge of 1/6 per mile. Minimum 6/-

### **Public Elementary Schools.**

There are 11 Public Elementary Schools in the District, 8 of which are Church of England Schools and 3 of which are County Council Schools.

School Closure :—The following Schools were closed during the year :—

Colney Heath, on September 16th for ten days for Scarlet Fever.

Gustard Wood, on 22nd September for six weeks for Whooping Cough.

Kinsbourne Green, on 19th February for two weeks for Influenza.

Wheathampstead Infants, on 20th July for two weeks for Whooping Cough.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The River Lea passes through the Parishes of Wheathampstead and Sandridge.

The effluent of the Wheathampstead Sewage Works discharges into this river, but although regular analysis is made by Officials of the Lea Conservancy, no complaint has been received by the Council.

The Colne passes through St. Peter's and St. Stephen's, and except that the passage of water from Nast Hyde to Broad Colney is sluggish, no complaints are received.

The Ver passes through the Parishes of St. Michael's, St. Stephen's and Redbourn, and no complaint of pollution has been received for several years.

### **Water Supply.**

The District generally is supplied with water from deep wells or by service pipe from private companies water mains. There are a few remaining shallow wells which are tested at times for any pollution, water being laid on or better supplies provided when the existing water is found to be unwholesome.

The following is a table showing the Water Supply of the District :—

# Water Supply.

Parish.	Portion of Parishes.	Name of Company or Water Undertaking.	Approx. number of Houses supplied.	Estimated number of Houses in Area.	Number of Houses with Well Supply.	Remarks.
Harpenden Rural...	Adjoining Harpenden	Harpenden Water Co. ...	52	146	94	Deep Wells. Water Plentiful.
Redbourn	Urban Adjoining Harpenden	Harpenden Water Co. ...	18	534	495	Nine Public Pumps and Deep Wells. Plentiful
	Gorhambury Estate ...	Rt. Hon. Earl of Verulam	14			
	Shafford Estate	J. B. Joel, Esq. ...	7			
St. Michael's	Leverstock Green	Hemel Hempstead Corp.	48			Deep Wells. Plentiful
	Adjoining St. Albans	St. Albans Water Co. ...	21	197	51	with exception of a few Cottages at Westwick Row
	Childwickbury Estate	J. B. Joel, Esq. ...	45			Shallow Wells for most part but no shortage of water.
	Gorhambury Estate	Rt. Hon. Earl of Verulam	32			*Colney Heath main extension and house connections in hand.
St. Peter Rural	Roe Green Estate	Marquis of Salisbury	70			One Public Pump at Sleapshyde.
	Hill End Estate	Herts County Asylum C.	26			Deep Wells mostly but a few shallow wells remain at Park Street.
	Middlesex County Estate	Middlesex " "	41	660	237	Deep Well engine and Water Tower. Three Public Pumps in the village.
	*Colney Heath...	Barnet Water Co. ...	67			Deep Wells.
	London Colney	St. Albans Water Co. ...	215			
	Sleapshyde	Private Owner...	5			
St. Stephen's	Park Street	Private Owner	145			
	Frogmore			575	396	
	Colney Street...	Colne Valley Water Co.	34			
	Grove Estate, etc.	St. Albans R.D.C.	18	220	202	
Sandridge	Spencer Place...					
Wheathampstead...	Childwickbury Estate ...	J. B. Joel, Esq. ...	11	224	211	Deep Wells. Pipe supply under consideration.
	Village, Batford, New Marford	Harpenden Water Co. ...	—	750	750	



## Sewerage and Drainage.

Some of the villages and parts of the District are sewered and other drainage is to cesspools.

The village of Colney Heath is not sewered; the tenants on the Heath frequently throw slop-water into the channels cut for relieving the surface water. The water level here prevents the sinking of private cesspools, but some attention should be given to this matter, as the ground at the rear of the cottages, which is partly in the Barnet Rural District, is no longer covered with grass, and at times a nuisance is created. I understand the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector have the matter in hand, and no doubt some way may be found of overcoming the difficulty. Their report will also include some suggestion with reference to the improvement of the drainage of the school premises.

The following is a brief resumé of the drainage of the various parishes :—

HARPENDEN (Rural).—A scattered area where the cesspools are emptied, as required, by private owners.

REDBOURN.—Cesspools, private and public, are emptied by Steam Van, under a contract. Outlying houses have cesspools which are emptied by tenants or owners.

S2. MICHAEL'S.—Scattered area; cesspools generally emptied by private owners. About fifty houses at Leverstock Green drain to Hemel Hempstead sewers.

ST. PETER'S (Rural).—London Colney recently sewered and a new Sewage Works installed. Colney Heath is previously mentioned under this heading. Napsbury Asylum has its own Sewage Disposal Works.



Hill End Asylum has its own drainage scheme. Outlying districts have cesspools emptied by private owners.

ST. STEPHEN'S.—Cesspools emptied by private owners.

The Grove Estate, near Radlett, is sewered by arrangement with the Watford Rural District Council.

SANDRIDGE.—The main village has a waste water sewer which discharges into a ditch about half a mile from the village. This ditch is occasionally cleaned out by the Council's workmen and no complaints have been received.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.—The village and New Marford are sewered and the new Sewage Disposal Works are quite satisfactory.

Gustard Wood, the Folly and outlying districts have cesspools emptied by the owners.

Batford needs a sewage system, and this has been held up until the question of a water supply could be gone into. It is necessary that both sewers and water be provided in the near future.

COUNCIL HOUSES.—The whole of the Council Houses throughout the District, with the exception of London Colney, Brewhouse Hill and Leverstock Green, drain to cesspools. These are now emptied by the Council's workmen by means of a Dennis Vacuum Van. This van is also open to engagement by private owners, when available, for emptying of cesspools in any of the outlying districts, a reasonable charge being made.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

Privy closets of the pit type now practically only exist in the outlying and remote districts.

The Council contracts for weekly pail and earth-closet collection in the following areas :—

Redbourn Village (twice).

Kinsbourne Green.

Wheathampstead, including Batford, The Folly, and part of Gustard Wood.

Sandridge Village.

St. Peter's, including Colney Heath, Roestock, Roe Green, New Town, Tyttenhanger, Smallford, Hatfield Road, Horse Shoes, Hill End, Wilkins Green and Sleapshyde, and London Colney.

St. Stephen's, Park Street, Frogmore, Colney Street.

New Marford has recently been converted from pail closets to water closets, and this work is now proceeding at London Colney.

ASHBINS.—A weekly collection covers the above areas, and the Grove Estate, near Radlett.

## **Offensive Trades.**

There are only three registered Offensive Trades in the District, and these are visited periodically. There have been no complaints concerning these trades.

**Table of Parishes, Etc.**

District.	Acreage.	Est. Popula- tion.	Inhabited Houses.	New Houses Erected.	New Subsidy Houses.
Harpenden Rural ... ..	3479	608	153	17	4
Redbourn ... ..	4563	2088	531	8	1
St. Michael's Rural...	6131	870	204	10	4
St. Peter's Rural ... ..	5256	5766	667	30	23
St. Stephen's Rural...	6991	2192	600	40	23
Sandridge ... ..	5446	920	221	4	...
Wheathampstead ... ..	5187	3013	738	10	10
Totals ... ..	37053	15457	3114	119	65

**Housing.**

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

There are no houses let as lodgings in the District.

Number of new houses erected 139.

As part of Local Authorities' Scheme 20.

By private enterprise 119, including the 65 subsidy houses.

The first part of the Council Housing Scheme consisted of 72 houses with weekly rents of from 7/- to 15/-, as follows :—

Parish.		Situation of Site.	No. of Cottages.	Method of Sewage Disposal.	Water Supply.
Harpenden Rural	...	Kinsbourne Green	... 10	...Cesspools...	Main Supply
Redbourn	...	Common, Nr. Boys School	... 4	...Cesspools...	Wells
St. Peter's Rural	...	Nr. Smallford Station	8	...Cesspools...	Wells
St. Stephen's Rural	...	Nr. Park Street Station	12	...Cesspools...	Main Supply
Sandridge	...	Nr. Church	... 18	...Cesspools...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	Brewhouse Hill	... 8	...Drains to Sewer...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	The Folly	... 12	...Cesspools...	Wells

The following have been erected or are in course of erection :—

St. Peter's Rural	...	London Colney	28	...Drain to Sewer...	Main
St. Stephen's Rural	...	Frogmore	12	...Cesspools	...Town
St. Peter's Rural	...	Tyttenhanger	12	...Cesspools	...Wells
Redbourn	...	Lybury	6	...Cesspools	...Wells
Redbourn	...	South Common	4	...Cesspools	...Wells

The rents vary from 8/- to 11/- per week.

#### *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	336
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	49
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	17
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	28



12 cottages were structurally improved, and cleansing and repairs carried out in the remainder.

There are 11 houses in the District which are considered unfit, but owing to the house shortage it is impossible to take any action. One house is unoccupied and possibly beyond repair, but as it is between and attached to two occupied cottages, demolition has been postponed.

*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	28
---	-----	-----	-----	----

*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, or 1925 Act.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	12
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	12
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil
---	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	1
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

B.—Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	136
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	81
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners					nil

C.—Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1909, or 1925 Act.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	... ..	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	nil
(6) Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily demolished	... ..	nil

### Cowsheds.

The number of cowsheds on the register in the year 1924 is 42 distributed as follows :—

Harpenden Rural	...	...	3
Redbourn	...	...	10
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	5
St. Peter's Rural	...	...	6
St. Stephen's Rural	...	...	5
Sandridge	...	...	5
Wheathampstead	...	...	8

These are all regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and the cows are examined by the Veterinary Inspector.

## **Byelaws, Regulations and Adoptive Acts.**

The following Byelaws and Regulations and Adoptive Acts are in force in this District.

They were all in force prior to 1914.

New Streets and Buildings.

Offensive Trades.

Nuisances.

Slaughter Houses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Van-dwellers.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1889.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 secs. 23 and 36.

Public Health Act 1875 secs. 42, 44, 47 (3), 112, 113, 114, 169 (paragraph 3), 170, 171, 229 and 230.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (part iv.) secs. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68.

Urban Powers in force in parts of the Rural District.—  
Public Health Act 1875, sec. 161 (para. 1);  
Redbourn.

Public Health Act 1875, sec. 160 (s.s. 1); Redbourn,  
St. Peter Rural, Sandridge and St. Stephen's  
Rural.

Public Health Act s. 66; St. Michael Rural, St.  
Peter Rural and Sandridge.

Public Health Act 1925. All adoptive sections under  
consideration by the Ministry of Health.

## Factories and Workshops.

### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prose- cutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... (including Factory Laundries)	19	3	...
<b>Workshops</b> ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	...	...
<b>Workplaces</b> ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	4	...	...
Total ...	44	3	

## 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions.  (5)	
	Found.  (2)	Re- medied.  (3)	Referred to H.M. In- specter. (4)		
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*</i>					
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...	
Want of ventilation ... ..	..	...	...	...	
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...	
Want of drainage of floors ...	2	2	...	...	
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...	
Sanitary Accommoda- tion	insufficient ... ..	...	...	..	
	unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	
	not separate for sexes	...	...	...	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :</i>					
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	..	...	
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...	
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).					
Total ... ..	3	3	...	...	

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

There are 73 Factories and Workshops registered in the District. Of these 11 are Factories and 62 are Workshops, distributed in the different parishes as follows :—

Harpenden Rural	...	0	0	0
Redbourn	...	3	18	21
St. Michael's Rural	...	0	1	1
St. Peter's Rural	...	1	11	12
St. Stephen's Rural	...	2	16	18
Sandridge	...	1	2	3
Wheathampstead	...	4	14	18
		—	—	—
		11	62	73

There is no overcrowding in any workshop in the District, nearly all provide 500 c.f. air space and many provide much more.

There are no wholesale bakehouses in the District.

Under the Factories and Workshops Act 1901, no underground bakehouse must be used after January 1st, 1904, without written permission of the Sanitary Authorities.

There is only one such underground bakehouse in the District; which is in Wheathampstead parish and has received the necessary permission of this Council.

There are 3 factories and 1 workshop in this District which usually employ more than 40 persons; they are situate as follows :—

Sandridge, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Workshop.

Wheathampstead, 1 Factory.



These all have adequate means of escape from fire.

There are no outworkers of the specified classes in this District.

I desire to express my indebtedness to my brother Officials, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for the assistance given me in writing this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PATON,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**Sanitary Inspector's Report**  
**for the Year ending December 31st, 1925.**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans  
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Miss Curtis and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Eighteenth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector under you for the Rural District of St Albans.

Thirty-eight complaints were received. 1472 inspections and re-inspections were made, and 61 visits paid on special inquiry.

Under the Factory and Workshops Acts, 49 visits were paid to trade premises. Notices were issued with reference to unsatisfactory cleansing of floors in two instances, and in one case where the closet accommodation was defective. These were rectified.

Complaints were again received about the smoke from a factory chimney in the Wheathampstead District, the trouble arising during a shortage of the right kind of fuel. At the time of the observations, the Medical Officer and myself were unable to recommend any action to be taken.

A complaint of encroachment on the river bank and pollution of the river was received, but appeared to be without justification.

The Council's Regulations regarding Dairies and Cowsheds call for the limewashing of these premises twice in each year, and this is generally carried out, and the premises generally are in good condition. Two cowsheds were re-modelled and re-drained, and one re-roofed.

The Slaughter houses and Horse-slaughtering premises were periodically inspected. The latter still offers some difficulty on the drainage question, but possibly, with suitable treatment, approved by the Council's Engineers, the premises may soon be connected to the new sewer. Lime-washing and cleansing was regularly carried out.

Since the new Meat Regulations came into operation the butchers have arranged to kill on certain days, and notify me when any change of the day or time is made. Meat inspection has been carried out whenever opportunity offered. One carcase with advanced Aetinomycosis, and several diseased or unfit internal organs were surrendered for destruction. There were also several emergency calls in the case of killing carried out by farmers and others. In every case the carcase was found to be fit for human consumption, and accordingly passed. One case of Anthrax was dealt with. One barrel of apples was surrendered as unfit for food and destroyed.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act all premises have been visited and disinfected and bedding removed for disinfection under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Premises were disinfected after Tubercular cases, and all applications for disinfection or disinfectants in connection with non-notifiable diseases were immediately complied with.

There are 20 premises licensed under the Petroleum Acts, and these have been inspected and are suitable for the storage required.

Several applications were made to put down Bulk Spirit Installations and Pumps, and were all agreed to.

Twenty-one visits have been paid to van dwellers. In some cases the owners of the vans purchase a piece of land, and, in such cases, the Council can only enforce their bye-

laws relating to the provision of sanitary accommodation and water supply. Where the van dweller is prepared to provide this, and the district is subjected to the annoyance of his sub-letting to other van owners it would appear that the powers of control are not quite sufficient. I think it would improve matters if van dwellers had to carry a register and were numbered similar to motor cars, and they were compelled to notify the Local Authority of any district when they camped for longer than twenty-four hours.

No applications were made for inspection of houses under the Rent Restrictions Act.

Several complaints were received of refuse dumps and rat infested premises. The County Rat Officer is always ready and willing to help in these cases and to advise as to the best means of preventing or destroying the rats.

The scavenging of the villages was kept under observation and complaints dealt with as they arose. The Districts scavenged are as follows:—Redbourn, Kinsbourne Green, Batford, Wheathampstead (including part of Gustard Wood, Marford and the Folly), Sandridge, Roe Green, Nast Hyde, Smallford, Colney Heath, Tyttenhanger and Park Street, Frogmore and Colney Street.

The Council may be called upon to consider the question of extending the contract in the Harpenden Rural District as building is progressing rapidly on the Roundwood Estate.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ROY S. DAVEY,

M. I. M. E.,

*Certified Housing and Sanitary Inspector.*









